

narrative and digressions on such topics as marriage patterns, economic activities and food and beer preparation. Conrad admits that the length of Tayiru's epic may have something to do with the mode of compensation: Conrad paid Tayiru for each side of a cassette recorded (p. 9, n. 1).

Before I conducted fieldwork the first time, I was warned by my mentor not to rely on data provided by *jeliw*, in part because they often ask for a great deal of money and because, as the singers of praise, *jeliw* were very alert to providing fieldworkers with the answers they wanted to hear. Conrad, too, is keenly aware of how he influenced Tayiru's version. He describes the initial sequence of meetings with Tayiru at which Tayiru gathered information and impressions about Conrad. When Tayiru agreed to record a narrative about Bamana Segu, Conrad still wondered about 'the degree of effort he was willing to put into his performance ... The thrust of my interview questions was giving him an idea of the sort of information I was after and helping him decide to what extent he was willing to cooperate with my inquiry. It was at this meeting that we negotiated a price for the recording sessions, something else that was very likely to influence his attitude to my work' (p. 9). Except for this brief comment on Conrad's influence on Tayiru's narrative, the translation is only of Tayiru's words. The relationship between the *jeli* and the one to whom he is singing praises is an organic one, shaped by the context of the performance and by the terms of their contract. In this book, however, all we have is the outcome. The outcome, however, is a richly narrated epic and a worthy companion to the existing corpus of Bamana Segu epics, which will be of considerable interest to students of African history, folklore and comparative literature. Its tropes – jealousy, revenge, pride and intrigue – are the stuff of pre-modern epics not only in West Africa but throughout much of the world.

Conrad has provided us with much more than an interesting epic. Virtually each page is garnished richly with ethnographic and historical annotations. The text includes several maps, a glossary of Bamana terms used and a short bibliography.

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## QUANTIFICATION

*Figuring African Trade*. Edited by G. LIESEGANG, H. PASCH and A. JONES. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer, 1986. Pp. 685. No price given.

This volume contains the proceedings of a 'Symposium on the Quantification and Structure of the Import and Export Long Distance Trade in Africa, 1800–1913', held in Germany in 1983. Although the book was published three years later, it has not been easy to obtain, and it is certainly not well known, even among specialists. The finished product will win no prizes as an example of publishing skills, but the unappealing presentation should not detract from the quality of the work of the editors and their contributors: this is an important and well executed collection of essays which should be known to all historians who specialize in African economic history in the nineteenth century.

The 21 papers, in English and French, are prefaced by an Introduction by Liesegang and divided into six sections: techniques of data retrieval (Johnson and Coquery-Vidrovitch); the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century (Inikori, Johnson, Hogendorn and Johnson, Miller, Ross); oil and rubber (Latham, Goerg, Mark); imperialism and trade in West Africa (Almeida-Topor, Harding, Clarence-Smith); from slaves to railways in East Africa (Sheriff, Liesegang, Campbell, Menne, Janmohammed); and quantifying production and

trade in the interior (Lovejoy, La Rue, Katzenellenbogen). Liesegang sets out the two principal themes of the Symposium: structural change and its measurement, and the individual authors follow with their particular topics, which cover most of the leading exports from tropical Africa. These are all valuable essays: some extend the work for which their authors are already known; others break new ground – at least to the knowledge of this reviewer. Selected examples include: Joseph Miller's study of imports into Luanda, 1785–1823, Peter Mark's quantification of rubber and palm kernel exports from Senegambia, 1884–1914, Leonhard Harding's summary (in English) of some of his work on Hamburg's trade with West Africa, Gerhard Liesegang's full (if, in his view, still preliminary) analysis of Mozambique's overseas trade, 1800–1914, and Janmohammed's account of the rise of Mombasa, 1895–1914. All the essays are accompanied by an appropriately comprehensive number of tables, figures and graphs.

The result greatly advances our knowledge of the volume, rate of growth and direction of Africa's 'legitimate' trade from outposts established by historians such as Newbury, Manning and Alpers; and it also raises the whole question of the 'nineteenth-century transition', which has been considered by a number of scholars during the past thirty years. There is a great book to be written on this subject (which was curiously neglected by Marxists and dependency theorists), and material is now available on East and Southern Africa as well as on the West Coast. Perhaps Robin Law, who has written so perceptively in this area, will respond to a public appeal to draw this material together. The contribution made by Gerhard Liesegang and his colleagues in the volume under review will certainly make the task much easier.

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## SHAPING SOUTH AFRICA

*The Shaping of South African Society, 1652–1840.* Edited by RICHARD ELPHICK and HERMANN GILIOME. (Second edition). Cape Town: Maskew Miller Longman, 1989. Pp. xix + 623. Rand 39.95, paperback.

*The Angry Divide: Social and Economic History of the Western Cape.* Edited by WILMOT G. JAMES and MARY SIMONS. Cape Town and Johannesburg: David Philip, 1989. Pp. xiv + 258. Rand 29.95, paperback.

Though the first edition of *The Shaping of South African Society* escaped notice in this journal, it was well-received by students and scholars alike following its original publication in 1979. The second edition under review here deserves to be even more widely read. Able to draw upon the extensive research of the late 1970s and through the 1980s, the editors and contributors have put together a completely new edition which is not only extensively revised throughout but is expanded in scale to end in 1840 instead of the previous rather premature date of 1820.

There is space here only to consider the main areas of new material. The first is in the chapter on slavery for which the original author, James Armstrong, has been joined by Nigel Worden. The chapter benefits from the recent work of both these scholars. Armstrong's work on the Madagascar end of the trade in slaves has added a new dimension to a previously little-considered aspect of Cape slavery, while Worden's influence is clearly evident in the greatly strengthened final section of the chapter which, *à la* Genovese, considers 'the slave experience' and in doing so goes way beyond the previous focus on resistance and escape. The authors argue that the relationship between master and slave was far more complex and more